

Claims

- [c1] 1.A system for authorizing broadcast reception comprising:
an authorization server which includes and is adapted and configured by
software therein which receives a geographic location and programming
request input;
said authorization server further includes a What Channels Server and among
other things, is adapted and configured by software to perform a signal
strength calculation for a first location of a terrestrial broadcast signal, which
is broadcast from a second location, where said signal strength calculation
determines that a signal strength of said terrestrial broadcast signal at said
first location exceeds a predetermined threshold;
said authorization server further includes a distance from a point calculator
which supplies information used for authorization for availability of
programming to said first location based upon a geographic calculation that
said first location is within a predetermined radius from a third location;
said authorization server further coupled to a location database/geocoder
which returns a lat/lon when provided with a street address;
said authorization server further including software and is adapted and
configured to provide information used for authorization of programming to
said first location if said first location is located in a GIS boundary, as
determined by a GIS boundary computer;
a programming content and business rule database which includes a list of
programming options which are available over various signal distribution
mechanisms to said first location; and includes a plurality of business rules
used for authorizing delivery of programming,
said authorization server is adapted and configured to determine eligibility
for said geographic location and programming request input and repetitively
compute additional requests and thereby provide a location specific
authorized content list which is a subset of said programming content
database where programming content has been excluded based upon
authorization denials determined by said authorization server.

- [c2] 2.A method of authorizing distribution of programming comprising the steps of:
providing a geographic location and programming request to an authorization server;
returning a set of business rules which are stored in a database; wherein said set of business rules are selected from said database based upon both a geographic location component and a programming component of said geographic location and programming request, and said database includes at least one business rule which is not based solely upon a signal strength of a terrestrially broadcast signal; and,
processing said set of business rules to generate an indication of eligibility of reception of programming.
- [c3] 3.A method of claim 2 wherein said geographic location and programming request includes a first street address and said authorization server is coupled to a location database/geocoder, which is adapted and configured to generate a first lat/lon reference which corresponds to said first street address.
- [c4] 4.A method of claim 2 wherein said geographic location and programming request includes a postal zip code, and said authorization server is coupled to a location database/geocoder, which is adapted and configured to generate a first lat/lon reference which corresponds to said postal zip code.
- [c5] 5.A method of claim 3 wherein said set of business rules includes a software algorithm which relates to distance from a point calculation which analyzes a distance separation between said first street address and a second geographic location.
- [c6] 6.A method of claim 5 wherein said second geographic location is a stadium which is adapted and configured for playing football games therein.
- [c7] 7.A method of claim 5 wherein said programming component of said geographic location and programming request is a request for programming

of a live football game being performed in said stadium.

- [c8] 8.A method of claim 3 wherein said set of business rules includes a software algorithm which relates to inclusion of said first street address in a first GIS boundary.
- [c9] 9.A method of claim 8 wherein said first GIS boundary is a DMA.
- [c10] 10.A method of claim 3 wherein said set of business rules includes a software algorithm which relates to predicting a signal strength of a first terrestrially broadcast signal carrying first programming content to said first street address and said programming component of said geographic location and programming request is a local television station news broadcast; wherein said step of processing said set of business rules results in an eligibility indication when said signal strength exceeds a predetermined threshold.
- [c11] 11.A system comprising:
 - a world-wide computer network;
 - a client computer disposed at a first location and coupled via an internet connection to said world-wide computer network;
 - said client adapted and configured via software therein to generate geographic location and programming requests;
 - an authorization server, coupled to said world-wide computer network;
 - said authorization server adapted and configured with software accessible thereto, to make an eligibility determination relating to delivery of programming to said client computer via said world-wide network;
 - said authorization server using a What Channels Server with a signal strength calculator for predicting a strength of a terrestrial broadcast signal at said first location;
 - said authorization server using a distance from a point calculator to determine a separation of said first location from a geographic location of a stadium which is adapted and configured to be used for sporting events.

[c12] 12. A system for authorizing reception of communication signals comprising:
an authorization server which includes and is adapted and configured by
software therein which receives a geographic location and programming
request input;
said authorization server further includes a first component which is adapted
and configured by software to perform a signal strength calculation for a
first location of a terrestrial broadcast signal, which is broadcast from a
second location, where said signal strength calculation determines that a
signal strength of said terrestrial broadcast signal at said first location
exceeds a predetermined threshold;
said authorization server further includes a distance from a point calculator
which supplies information used for authorization for availability of
programming to said first location based upon a geographic calculation that
said first location is within a predetermined radius from a third location;
said authorization server further coupled to a location database/geocoder
which returns a lat/lon when provided with a street address;
said authorization server further including software and is adapted and
configured to provide information used for authorization of programming to
said first location if said first location is located in a predetermined first
boundary, as determined by a boundary computer;
a programming content and signal authorization algorithm database which
includes a list of programming options which are available over various
signal distribution mechanisms to said first location; and includes a plurality
of predetermined signal authorization algorithms used for authorizing
delivery of programming; and
said authorization server is adapted and configured to determine eligibility
for said geographic location and programming request input and repetitively
compute additional requests and thereby provide a location specific
authorized content list which is a subset of said programming content
database where programming content has been excluded based upon
authorization denials determined by said authorization server.

- [c13] 13.A method of authorizing distribution of programming comprising the steps of:
providing a geographic location and programming request to an authorization server;
returning a set of predetermined signal authorization algorithms which are stored in a database;
wherein said set of predetermined signal authorization algorithms are selected from said database based upon both a geographic location component and a programming component of said geographic location and programming request, and said database includes at least one predetermined signal authorization algorithm which is not based solely upon a signal strength of a terrestrially broadcast signal; and,
processing said set of predetermined signal authorization algorithms to generate an indication of eligibility of reception of programming.
- [c14] 14.A method of claim 13 wherein said programming is television programming.
- [c15] 15.A method of claim 13 wherein said programming is radio programming.
- [c16] 16.A system of claim 12 wherein said programming content database contains radio programming.
- [c17] 17.A system of claim 12 wherein said programming content database contains television programming.